AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1.   (Currently Amended) An arrangement for combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms in a communications network, comprising:

a narrowband component, said narrowband component including switching intelligence and narrowband switching fabric;

a broadband component in communication with the narrowband component, said broadband component including broadband switching fabric;

wherein, when a first ~~communication~~ traffic call, destined for a node that has only narrowband capabilities, is received in the narrowband component, the switching intelligence in the narrowband component utilizes the narrowband switching fabric to route the ~~communication~~ first traffic call to the narrowband destination node, and

wherein, when a second ~~communication~~ traffic call, destined for a node that has broadband capabilities, is received in the narrowband component, the switching intelligence in the narrowband component utilizes the broadband switching fabric in the broadband component to route the ~~communication~~ second traffic call to the broadband destination node.

2.   (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein when a third ~~communication~~ traffic call, destined for a node that has broadband capabilities, is received in the broadband component, the broadband component utilizes the broadband switching fabric to route the ~~communication~~ third traffic call to the destination.

3.   (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 2, wherein the third ~~communication~~ traffic call is serviced by at least one telecommunications feature via said narrowband component.

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4.   (Original) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said broadband
component relies on the switching intelligence of said narrowband component.

5.   (Original) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said narrowband
component includes a synchronous transfer mode (STM) switch, and said broadband
component includes an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) switch.

6.   (Original) The arrangement according to claim 1, further comprising at
least one circuit emulator, said at least one circuit emulator adapted to enable said
broadband component to emulate a circuit with respect to said narrowband component.

7.   (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said
broadband component is adapted to emulate a circuit connection for the outgoing side
of the second ~~communication~~ traffic call at said broadband component.

8.   (Currently Amended) A system for combining narrowband applications
with broadband transport in a communications network, comprising:
      a first logical node that includes a first circuit-based switch and a first packet-
based switch, wherein the first circuit-based switch has access to call control logic; and
      a second logical node connected to the first logical node, said second logical
node including a second circuit-based switch and a second packet-based switch;
      wherein the first logical node is adapted to route ~~communications~~ traffic calls
between the first circuit-based switch and the first packet-based switch, and between
the first circuit-based switch and the second circuit-based switch in the second logical
node;
      wherein the second logical node is adapted to route ~~communications~~ traffic calls
between the second circuit-based switch and the second packet-based switch; and
      wherein the call control logic ~~may~~ selectively ~~propagate~~ propagates a given
~~communication~~ traffic call on a broadband transport mechanism or a narrowband
transport mechanism between said first logical node and said second logical node.

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9.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 8, wherein the call control logic selectively establishes a traffic connection across the narrowband transport mechanism may be established between the first circuit-based switch and the second circuit-based switch, between the first circuit-based switch and the second packet-based switch, between the first packet-based switch and the second circuit-based switch, and between the first packet-based switch and the second packet-based switch.

10.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 9, wherein the first packet-based switch and the second packet-based switch [[may]] establish connections across the narrowband transport mechanism using at least one circuit emulator each.

11.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 8, wherein a connection across the broadband transport mechanism may be is established between the first packet-based switch and the second packet-based switch.

12.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 8, wherein said first logical node is adapted to receive an incoming side of a communication traffic call and to forward an outgoing side of the communication traffic call from the first packet-based switch over the broadband transport mechanism to the second packet-based switch.

13.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 12, wherein the incoming side of the communication traffic call is terminated by the first circuit-based switch.

14.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 12, wherein the incoming side of the communication traffic call is terminated by the first packet-based switch.

15.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 12, wherein said first logical node is further adapted to at least one of interface with, and provide access to a ~~least one of~~ telecommunications service for the ~~communication~~ traffic call prior to forwarding the outgoing side of the ~~communication~~ traffic call.

16.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 8, wherein said first logical node is adapted to receive an incoming side of a ~~communication~~ traffic call at the first packet-based switch and to forward an outgoing side of the ~~communication~~ traffic call from the first circuit-based switch.

17.   (Currently Amended) A method for enabling a migration of a narrowband network to a broadband transport mechanism, comprising the steps of:

connecting a first control node having call control functionality and connection control functionality to a second control node having only connection control functionality;

receiving, at the first control node, a first ~~communication~~ traffic call in a first format;

forwarding, from the first control node to a first destination node, the first ~~communication~~ traffic call in the first format;

receiving, at the first control node, a second ~~communication~~ traffic call in the first format;

routing, by the first control node, the second ~~communication~~ traffic call to the second control node; and

forwarding, from the second control node to a second destination node, the second ~~communication~~ traffic call in a second format.

18.   (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein the first format comprises a time division multiplexed (TDM) format, and the second format comprises an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) format.

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19.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the first control node includes a synchronous transfer mode (STM) switch, and the second control node includes an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) switch, and wherein the first control node is directly connected to the control second node.

20.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

receiving, at the second control node, a third ~~communication~~ traffic call in the first format; and

forwarding, from the second control node, the third ~~communication~~ traffic call in the second format.

21.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

receiving, at the second control node, a third ~~communication~~ traffic call in the second format; and

forwarding, from the second control node, the third ~~communication~~ traffic call in the second format.

22.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, further comprising, after said step of receiving a third ~~communication~~ traffic call and before said step of forwarding the third ~~communication~~ traffic call, the steps of:

routing the third ~~communication~~ traffic call from the second control node to the first control node;

providing a telecommunications service for the third ~~communication~~ traffic call via the first control node; and

routing the third ~~communication~~ traffic call from the first control node back to the second control node.

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23. (Currently Amended) A method for enabling a migration of a narrowband network to a broadband transport mechanism, comprising the steps of: ~~a broadband transport mechanism com~~

receiving, at a narrowband control node having call control functionality and connection control functionality, a first ~~communication~~ traffic call in a first format;

forwarding, from the narrowband control node to a narrowband destination node, the first ~~communication~~ traffic call in the first format;

receiving, at a broadband control node having connection control functionality, a second ~~communication~~ traffic call in a second format;

routing, by the broadband control node, the second ~~communication~~ traffic call to the ~~first~~ narrowband control node; and

forwarding, from the narrowband control node, the second ~~communication~~ traffic call in the first format.

24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 23, wherein said step of routing, by the broadband control node, the second ~~communication~~ traffic call to the narrowband control node is performed by the broadband control node responsive to at least one instruction from the narrowband control node.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for enabling a gradual migration from a primarily narrowband network to a primarily broadband network, comprising the steps of:

receiving a ~~communication~~ traffic call having an identifier that corresponds to a destination terminal of the ~~communication~~ traffic call;

analyzing the identifier that corresponds to the destination terminal of the ~~communication~~ traffic call;

determining whether the identifier is associated with a network node having broadband capability; ~~and~~

if the identifier is associated with a network node having broadband capability, forwarding the communication over a broadband transport mechanism; and

if the identifier is not associated with a network node having broadband capability, forwarding the communication over a narrowband transport mechanism.

26.   (Canceled)

27.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein said step of receiving a ~~communication~~ traffic call having an identifier that corresponds to a destination terminal of the ~~communication~~ traffic call comprises the step of receiving the ~~communication~~ traffic call on a broadband transport mechanism.

28.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein said step of receiving a ~~communication~~ traffic call having an identifier that corresponds to a destination terminal of the ~~communication~~ traffic call comprises the step of receiving the ~~communication~~ traffic call on a narrowband transport mechanism.

29.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein the identifier comprises a called directory number; and wherein said step of analyzing the identifier that corresponds to the destination terminal of the ~~communication~~ traffic call comprises the step of analyzing, via a narrowband group switch, the identifier.

30.   (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein said step of determining whether the identifier is associated with a network node having broadband capability comprises the step of comparing the identifier to a plurality of entries in a data structure.

31.   (Original) The method according to claim 30, wherein the data structure includes bearer type information.

32.   (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein said step of determining whether the identifier is associated with a network node having broadband capability comprises the step of determining a proximity between the network node and the destination terminal.

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33. (Original) The method according to claim 25, further comprising the step of determining whether an identifier that corresponds to an origination terminates associated with a network node that has broadband capability.

34. (Currently Amended) An arrangement for combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms in a communications network, comprising:

means for providing switching intelligence;

means for providing narrowband switching, said means for providing narrowband switching having operative access to said means for providing switching intelligence;

means for providing broadband switching, said means for providing broadband switching connected to said means for providing narrowband switching;

means for forwarding an incoming narrowband ~~communication~~ traffic call as an outgoing narrowband ~~communication~~ traffic call utilizing said means for providing narrowband switching, upon determining that the destination for the narrowband ~~communication~~ traffic call is capable only of narrowband communications; and

means for converting and forwarding an incoming narrowband ~~communication~~ traffic call as an outgoing broadband ~~communication~~ traffic call utilizing said means for providing narrowband switching and said means for providing broadband switching, upon determining that the destination for the narrowband ~~communication~~ traffic call is capable of broadband communications.

35. (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 34, further comprising:

means for converting and forwarding an incoming broadband ~~communication~~ traffic call as an outgoing narrowband ~~communication~~ traffic call utilizing said means for providing broadband switching and said means for providing narrowband switching.

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36.   (Original) The arrangement according to claim 34, further comprising ~~range~~ ~~according~~
~~a~~ means for providing access to an intelligent network (IN) service, and ~~possession~~ ~~means~~
wherein said means for providing broadband switching has operative access to
said means for providing an IN service via said means for providing narrowband
switching.

37.   (Currently Amended) A method for combining narrowband applications
with broadband transport in a communications network, comprising:

terminating a time division multiplexed (TDM) inbound side of a first
~~communication~~ traffic call at a circuit switch;

if the destination for the first ~~communication~~ traffic call has only TDM
communications capability:

switching the first ~~communication~~ traffic call by the circuit switch; and

terminating a TDM outbound side of the first ~~communication~~ traffic call at
the circuit switch;

terminating a TDM inbound side of a second ~~communication~~ traffic call at the
circuit switch;

switching the second ~~communication~~ traffic call by the circuit switch; and

if the destination for the second ~~communication~~ traffic call has asynchronous
transfer mode (ATM) communications capability:

switching the second ~~communication~~ traffic call by a packet switch
connected to the circuit switch; and

terminating an ATM outbound side of the second ~~communication~~ traffic
call at the packet switch.

38.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 37, further
comprising the steps of:

terminating an ATM inbound side of a third ~~communication~~ traffic call at the
packet switch;

switching the third ~~communication~~ traffic call by the packet switch;

switching the third ~~communication~~ traffic call by the circuit switch; and

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terminating a TDM outbound side of the third ~~communication~~ traffic call .at the ~~...~~

circuit switch.

39. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 37, further comprising the steps of:

terminating an ATM inbound side of a third ~~communication~~ traffic call at the packet switch;

switching the third ~~communication~~ traffic call by the packet switch;

switching the third ~~communication~~ traffic call by the circuit switch;

providing a telecommunications service for the third ~~communication~~ traffic call via the circuit switch; and

at least one of the following steps:

terminating an ATM outbound side of the third ~~communication~~ traffic call at the packet switch; and

terminating a TDM outbound side of the third ~~communication~~ traffic call at the circuit switch.

40. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 37, further comprising the steps of:

terminating an ATM inbound side of a third ~~communication~~ traffic call at the packet switch;

switching the third ~~communication~~ traffic call by the packet switch; and

terminating an ATM outbound side of the third ~~communication~~ traffic call at the packet switch.